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INSURANCE GRAFTERS.

In referring to an effort to strike from an insurance bill before the New York legislature a clause giving the policyholders the power to exercise control over their own interests in the selection of trustees, the New York Journal of Commerce says:

"The attempt to strike out this vital provision proceeded from the companies which made it so necessary, was directed by the lobbying that has been so discredited, and was made effective, at least momentarily, by a class of political tools who have been the chief instruments of corporate power in time past, for betraying the interests of the people."

If the bill has been saved from this deadly blow by the sudden shock to public opinion and its prompt assertion of its power, by the intervention of the governor and the shrinking back of some of the conspirators before the menace of popular wrath, it is no less plain that some of those who are still intrusted with the direction of great life insurance companies were engaged in the attempt at assassination. The lobby was not working for nothing and there was nobody else to hire it.

The men who are interested in maintaining the old conditions which prevailed in New York insurance companies, probably banked upon the forgetfulness of the public. Revelations as startling as those which were made before the Hughes committee have been forgotten in less time and the grafters perhaps thought matters would take the usual course and that they could with perfect safety, change the current of the entire business and direct it back into the old channel, which they found so profitable and pleasant.

EARTHQUAKES AND THE CANAL.

The destructive earthquake at San Francisco has caused some persons to question the desirability of a lock canal across the Isthmus of Panama, the contention being that while a sea level waterway might not be injured by seismic disturbances, it is more than probable that a lock canal would seriously suffer and might, in fact, be absolutely destroyed.

Chairman Shonts, of the canal commission, however, seems to think that there is little or no reason to fear seismic disturbances on the route of the canal. He declares that Panama has felt the force of seismic tremors less for hundreds of years than any place in the earthquake zone. He calls attention to the fact that there is a flat arch of cobblestones and cement in Colon with a six-foot span, the only arch of the kind in the world which has stood for a hundred years. It is the door of a church. It is pointed out that it never could have survived a serious earth tremor.

Now that is all very well so far as it goes and is more or less encouraging, but earthquakes, like lightning, seldom give extended notice of their approach and, as was illustrated in the case of Charleston, sometimes seem to strike places not in the earthquake zone. If the Isthmus is subject to seismic disturbances there is no telling when a serious earthquake will go that way, and it may be that Uncle Sam will in the end be forced to build a sea-level canal, even after expending \$150,000,000 on one built on the lock plan.

Twenty-five Russian authors have got together and passed resolutions condemning Mark Twain and the rest of us for our treatment of Maxim Gorky. If the twenty-five will come over under similar conditions we would be delighted to give them the same sort of treatment. Americans are yet barbarians enough to believe that a man's family life is a true index to his character.

When every Senator has said all he can think of, something will be done with the railroad rate bill.—Florida Times-Union.

If they would only confine themselves to the things they can think of themselves!

The Chicago News says: "The same scientist would arise and blame the earthquake on the sun was a foregone conclusion." Why worry over it, then. The sun doesn't seem to be alarmed over the accusation.

The Czar has succeeded in borrowing \$400,000,000. This will hardly go half way in paying the cost of the war with Japan.

Senator LaFollette in his maiden effort showed that he had a proper appreciation of senatorial courtesy.

THE ELYSEE PALACE.

Checked Career of the White House of France.

The Elysee palace, situated in the Rue Faubourg Saint-Honore, is a cross between a country house and a hotel. It has had a checked career since its erection in 1718 and has harbored some queer characters, Louis V. presented it to Mme. de Pompadour. Who knows how many lettres de cachet went out of the gates to imprison those who lampooned her? Under Louis XVI, it was called the Elysee Bourbon. During the revolution it became national property, was put up for sale, found a purchaser and was turned into a government printing office. During the directory there were gay doings in the fine old rooms, and the merrillous and incalculable danced and gambled from sunset to sunrise. The rooms were let to a syndicate who made a large fortune out of the speculation. Since then the palace has been occupied by Murat, Napoleon I., Louis Bonaparte and Queen Hortense. Alexander I. of Russia and the Duc de Berri. After the revolution of 1830 it remained unoccupied until Louis Napoleon made it his residence while he was president of the republic. Nearly all the subsequent presidents of the present republic have added to it. The large glass awning seen from the Faubourg, called by the scoffers "the monkey palace," was the work of Carnot. His also is the large ballroom. The left wing was built by Louis Napoleon, and Grevy added a room overlooking the garden. None of the presidents seem to fancy its state bedroom, nor do they write at the Louis XVI. table, ornamented with brass work chased by Guattiere. They have one and all preferred to furnish small rooms away from the solemn state apartments and use an ordinary desk such as we find in any office.—Boston Transcript.

Lincoln the Lawyer.

It is conceded by all his contemporaries that Lincoln was the best all-around jury lawyer of his day in Illinois. Unquestionably his knowledge of human nature played an important part in his success. He possessed another quality, however, which is almost if not quite as essential in jury work, and that is clearness and simplicity of statement. His logical mind marshaled facts in such orderly sequence and he interpreted them in such simple language that a child could follow him through the most complicated case, and his mere recital of the facts had the force of argument.—Fredrick Trevor Hill in Century.

An Explorer's Stratagem.

Sir Harry Johnston, the famous explorer, once escaped from a very tight corner in Africa by a queer stratagem. A score or two of murderous natives had surrounded his tent, into which, before rushing in, they sent an envoy. The envoy was told the smallest was in the camp, and a wretched Albino was sent out as the awful example. In five minutes the scared tribesmen had vanished. As Sir Harry well knew, they feared the "white disease" more than all the inventions of Maxim.

His Works.

"A man is known by his works" declared the irrepressible reformer, who was addressing a large and enthusiastic audience. "Yours must be a gas works," shouted a rude, uncultured person who occupied a back seat.

THROAT EXERCISES.

Evils That Come From Misuse of the Vocal Organs.

The chronic sore throat is not infrequently produced by the misuse of the vocal organs. Very often that unruly little member, the tongue, is accountable for the difficulty, as it is for a great many other troubles in this transitory life. Many people have a habit when talking of pushing the tongue so far back against the delicate membranes that line the throat that irritation more or less painful is caused, and if it continues any length of time ulcers will form, and so will a doctor's bill.

Control of the tongue is excellent in all senses of the word. Physically this organ may be managed by depressing it into a hollow at a point three-quarters of an inch back of where the tip of it comes when in a natural position in the mouth and at the same time singing very light head tones. This exercise requires some patience at first, but the habit of keeping the tongue down is soon acquired. In speaking or singing it should not be allowed to loop up and fill the mouth, thus interfering with the free passage of the tones of the voice from the throat to the front of the mouth, where they should strike and then escape clear as a bell. This looping up of the tongue in the mouth is the cause of much of the indistinct and slovenly utterances to which we are so often obliged to listen.

In many people we notice the line from the point of the chin to the neck is in the form of a right angle. In a supple throat this line forms a curve, just as a canary's does when the small yellow artist is warbling his carols.

To develop the throat and make this angle a curve stand before a mirror so that you may watch the throat swell out. Now thrust your tongue out as far as it will go, then draw it back quickly and forcibly, at the same time bringing it downward in the mouth as far as you can. Place your thumb and forefinger against the larynx (commonly called the Adam's apple, and if you are making the right movement you will feel the larynx pass downward. For a week or two make the movements lightly. After that time put as much force into it as you can. The exercise should be practiced for a few minutes several times a day to insure rapid and good results.

To fill up the hollows of the neck stand correctly and then slowly fill the lungs with air without elevating your shoulders. As the air is forced upward into the throat hold it there a few seconds and then expel slowly. This exercise is best performed soon after rising in the morning and before retiring at night.—New York Post.

Time and Eternity.

The stream of time never runs dry, and the ocean of eternity will forever send its mighty surges mountain high against the bank of time's little stream, sweeping with each receding billow over its expansive bosom the frail human craft from the shore of time, with earth's happiness, human affection, toil, trials, tears and sin, to the eternal shore of celestial beauty and bliss. Oh, mighty ocean of eternity, your wonderful anthem of life and death brings eternal joy and condemnation to him who is untrue to himself and his divine pilot, but to the trusting, faithful man it sings of endless felicity in the presence of time who has redeemed his people from the bondage of sin and has swept them through the pearly gates.—Ducktown (Tenn.) Gazette.

The Wonderful Diatom.

One of the most wonderful things in vegetable life is a beautiful and minute class of seaweeds called diatoms. They belong to the seaweed family, yet they may be found by the thousands in any roadside ditch, fresh or salt water lake or even in cisterns, wells, springs, etc. Most species of plants are made up of an infinite number of little cells, but with the diatom it is otherwise. Each representative of this wonderful family of plants is formed of but a single cell and this so minute that it would require 2,500 of the most common form, laid end to end, to make a string an inch in length. Some species of diatoms have the power of independent motion, and on that account were for some time believed to be animals.

Candy and the Flag.

The following is accredited to the late Senator Hoar: At a Fourth of July celebration in a Canadian town where both English and American guests were assembled the flags of the two countries were used in decorations. A frivolous young English girl, loyal to the queen, but with no love for the stars and stripes, exclaimed: "Oh, what a silly looking thing the American flag is! It suggests nothing but checkerberry candy." "Yes," replied Senator Hoar, "the kind of candy that has made everybody sick who ever tried to lick it."

PACIFIC CABLE OPEN.

Roosevelt Sends Message to Dowager Empress of China.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The Shanghai and Manila offices of the Commercial Pacific Cable Company were in communication by the new cable on last Tuesday. Messages between the President of the United States and Empress Dowager of China have been exchanged.

The laying of this cable finishes the work commenced by the laying of the Commercial Pacific Cable from San Francisco to Honolulu and continued by the laying of cables between Manila and Honolulu by

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